

Amendments to the Claims

1-13.(canceled)

14.(currently amended) A method for facilitating device driver installation, comprising:

assigning a discrete identification number to each of a plurality of devices installed in a customer environment;

associating the identification numbers with the customer;

associating information for configuring a driver for each of the devices installed in the customer environment with the identification number for the device; and

storing the identification numbers and associated configuration information together at a location remote from the customer environment and accessible to the customer environment.

15.(canceled) The method of Claim 14, further comprising associating the identification numbers with the customer.

16.(currently amended) The method of Claim 14 ~~15~~, further comprising associating a device driver with each identification number and storing the associated device drivers together with the identification numbers at the remote location,

17.(previously presented) The method of Claim 16, wherein:
storing the identification numbers and associated configuration information together at a location remote from the customer environment and accessible to the customer environment comprises storing the identification numbers and associated configuration information on a database server accessible to the customer environment through a web server; and

storing the associated device drivers together with the identification numbers at the remote location comprises storing the associated device drivers on the database server.

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18.(previously presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein:

storing the identification numbers and associated configuration information on a database server accessible to the customer environment through a web server comprises storing the identification numbers and associated configuration information in a first database on the database server; and

storing the associated device drivers together with the identification numbers at the remote location comprises storing the associated device drivers on the database server comprises storing the associated device drivers in a second database on the database server.

19.(currently amended) A computer readable medium having instructions thereon for:

assigning a discrete identification number to each of a plurality of devices installed in a customer environment;

associating the identification numbers with the customer;

associating information for configuring a driver for each of the devices installed in the customer environment with the identification number for the device; and

storing the identification numbers and associated configuration information together at a location remote from the customer environment and accessible to the customer environment.

20.(canceled)

21.(currently amended) The medium of Claim 19 20, further comprising instructions for associating a device driver with each identification number and storing the associated device drivers together with the identification numbers at the remote location.

22.(previously presented) The medium of Claim 21, wherein:

the instructions for storing the identification numbers and associated configuration information together at a location remote from the customer

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environment and accessible to the customer environment comprise instructions for storing the identification numbers and associated configuration information on a database server accessible to the customer environment through a web server; and the instructions for storing the associated device drivers together with the identification numbers at the remote location comprise instructions for storing the associated device drivers on the database server.

23.(previously presented) The medium of Claim 22, wherein:
the instructions for storing the identification numbers and associated configuration information on a database server accessible to the customer environment through a web server comprise instructions for storing the identification numbers and associated configuration information in a first database on the database server; and
the instructions for storing the associated device drivers together with the identification numbers at the remote location comprise instructions for storing the associated device drivers on the database server comprises storing the associated device drivers in a second database on the database server.

24.(currently amended) A method for facilitating device driver installation, comprising:
associating a group of numbers each identifying a plurality of devices installed in a customer environment with the customer;
acquiring the number identifying one of the plurality of devices installed in the customer environment;
communicating the acquired identification number to a server at a location remote from the customer environment;
the server acquiring a device driver associated with the identification number;
and
installing the acquired driver on the devices device identified by the acquired identification number.

25.(previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein the server acquiring a device driver associated with the identification number comprises the

server accessing a database of device drivers and a database of information for configuring a driver for each of the devices installed in the customer environment.

26.(currently amended) A computer readable medium having instruction thereon for:

associating a group of numbers each identifying a plurality of devices installed in a customer environment with the customer;

acquiring the number identifying one of the plurality of devices installed in the customer environment;

communicating the acquired identification number to a server at a location remote from the customer environment;

the server acquiring a device driver associated with the identification number; and

installing the acquired driver on the devices device identified by the acquired identification number.

27.(previously presented) The medium of Claim 26, wherein the instructions for the server acquiring a device driver associated with the identification number comprise instructions for the server accessing a database of device drivers and a database of information for configuring a driver for each of the devices installed in the customer environment.